

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN**

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BRIAN RADECKI  
609 N. Second Street  
La Crescent, Minnesota 55947

-and-

AMY RADECKI  
609 N. Second Street  
La Crescent, Minnesota 55947

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

Case Number: 20-cv-814

Plaintiffs,

v.

KATHERINE DAHL  
The Psychology Center  
7617 Mineral Point Road  
Madison, Wisconsin 53717

-and-

GUNDERSEN LUTHERAN MEDICAL  
CENTER, INC.  
1900 South Avenue  
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601

Defendants.

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**COMPLAINT**

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Plaintiffs, by and through their attorneys, hereby allege as their Complaint  
against Defendants Katherine Dahl and Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center, Inc., as  
follows:

## **PARTIES**

1. Plaintiff Brian Radecki lives at 609 North Second Street in La Crescent, Minnesota and at all times relevant hereto resided within the state of Minnesota.

2. Plaintiff Amy Radecki is the wife of Brian Radecki, lives at 609 North Second Street in La Crescent, Minnesota and at all times relevant hereto resided within the state of Minnesota.

3. Defendant Katherine Dahl is a licensed clinical social worker currently practicing at 7617 Mineral Point Road in Madison, Wisconsin and previously practicing at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center, Inc. in La Crosse Wisconsin and at all times relevant hereto resided within the state of Wisconsin.

4. Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center, Inc is a Wisconsin Corporation with its principal place of business located at 1900 South Avenue in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

## **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

5. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332, as there is complete diversity of citizenship between plaintiffs and defendants and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.

6. Venue is proper in the Western District of Wisconsin pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391.

7. This Court has personal jurisdiction over defendants because defendants conduct substantial business in Wisconsin and because this lawsuit arises out of defendants' acts of alleged negligence that occurred in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

**FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CAUSES OF ACTION**

8. Plaintiffs Brian and Amy Radecki are the parents of Lillian Radecki, who was born on January 23, 2002.

9. In April of 2014, at the age of 12, Lillian Radecki began to attend therapy with Katherine Dahl, a licensed clinical social worker.

10. Lillian Radecki's therapy continued periodically with Katherine Dahl over the next four years and addressed a number of different issues.

11. During the time that therapy was administered by Katherine Dahl, Lillian Radecki came to believe that she was sexually abused by Brian Radecki on one occasion during her earlier childhood.

12. In October of 2017 Lillian Radecki, at the age of 15, accused Brian Radecki of sexually abusing her on one occasion in her earlier childhood.

13. Lillian Radecki's memory of sexual abuse by Brian Radecki is a false memory.

14. As a result of the allegation of sexual abuse of Lillian Radecki by Brian Radecki formal investigations began by Houston County, Minnesota authorities.

15. In late 2017 a legal proceeding was begun in the District Court of Houston County, Minnesota for a Child in Need of Protection or Services File # 28-JV-17-793, arising from the allegation of sexual abuse of Lillian Radecki by Brian Radecki.

16. As a result of the legal proceeding and despite a conclusion that “It has not been proven by clear and convincing evidence that the child is a victim of physical or sexual abuse”, Lillian Radecki was removed from the home of her family and placed in foster care where she has remained.

17. Despite repeated efforts, Brian and Amy Radecki were unable to establish an enduring relationship with their daughter Lillian Radecki during the remainder of her childhood.

#### **NEGLIGENCE CLAIM AGAINST KATHERINE DAHL**

18. The treatment of Lillian Radecki by Katherine Dahl was below the standard of care for her profession for reasons including, but not limited to, her failure to understand and consider how memory works, her failure to consider available information that would demonstrate that Lillian’s memories were false memories, her use of hypnotic like procedures in a negligent form and without the proper training, her failure to recognize the suggestive influences to which Lillian Radecki was exposed, and her failure to recognize and adequately communicate to Lillian Radecki that recovered memories are unreliable.

19. Katherine Dahl’s negligence was a cause of damage to the plaintiffs, including the loss of their relationship with their minor child, Lillian Radecki, loss of money to defend against the Houston County case concerning their child in need of protection or services, past and future mental and emotional pain and suffering, past and future loss of enjoyment of life, and other damages to be proven at trial.

**NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS CLAIM AGAINST  
KATHERINE DAHL**

20. Katherine Dahl's negligent treatment of Lillian Radecki, as described above, was a cause of Lillian Radecki's false recovered memory that Brian Radecki raped her at an earlier age.

21. Lillian Radecki informed a number of adults of her belief that Brian Radecki raped her and ultimately caused further investigations of the claim.

22. Plaintiffs became aware of the alleged rape by virtue of a variety statements made by Lillian and by individuals to whom Lillian spoke, including Katherine Dahl.

23. As a result of Katherine Dahl's negligent treatment of Lillian Radecki, plaintiffs have suffered severe emotional distress causing damages to be proven at trial.

**CLAIM AGAINST GUNDERSEN LUTHERAN MEDICAL CENTER, INC.**

24. At all times material hereto Katherine Dahl was acting within the scope of her employment with Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center, Inc.

25. Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center, Inc is responsible for the damages to plaintiffs for which the acts of Katherine Dahl were a cause.

26. Additionally, Gundersen Lutheran is negligent by its failure to adequately supervise Katherine Dahl and such negligence was a cause of damages to the plaintiffs.

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiffs hereby demand a trial of their claims by jury to the extent authorized by law.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

Wherefore plaintiffs demand the following relief:

A. An award of damages in favor of plaintiffs against the defendants for injuries resulting from the negligence of Katherine Dahl and Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center, Inc.

B. An award of statutory costs and fees.

C. Any further relief the court deems just and proper.

Dated at Monona, Wisconsin this 4th day of September, 2020.

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